



Site Name: Land off Eglos Road, Trispen, St Erme, Cornwall	Planning Number: PA16/01962; PA17/02885
Grid ref (10-fig): SW 84320 49988	OS Map No: OSGB36
Parish: St Erme	OASIS reference: Southwes1_287615
Site Type: Archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development	
Period: Undated / Modern	Form: Archaeological evaluation event
<p>Description: Archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of David Matthews of Burrington Estates (the Client) prior to the development of land off Eglos Road, Trispen, St Erme, Cornwall. The work was carried out by J. Bampton and P. Webb between 10th and 11th July 2017 in accordance with a WSI (Balmond 2017) drawn up in consultation with Charles Johns, Senior Development Officer, Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, and follows on from a desk-based assessment, walkover and geophysical surveys carried out in 2015 (Bampton 2015).</p> <p>The site occupies a single sub-rectangular field immediately south of the village of Trispen, off the A39 and c.5.4km north of Truro. Trispen is located on the top of a broad hill, of which the site lies on the south facing slope at a height of between 83m and 98m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie mudstone and sandstone of the Porhtowan Formation (BGS 2015).</p> <p>The site lies in an area of Medieval Farmland, part of the Anciently Enclosed Land (AEL) designation. Limited archaeological work has been undertaken on the site itself, previous geophysical and walkover surveys suggesting sparse medieval or post-medieval field systems (Bampton 2015); though geophysical survey to the north of the site previously identified possible prehistoric features and the Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies a number of medieval settlements and potential prehistoric 'rounds' and barrows in the immediate area.</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the excavation of seven trenches each c.50m in length, totalling c.350m, by mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision to the depth of weathered natural, between c.0.35m and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy of the site comprised ploughsoil, mid brown soft friable clay-silt between 0.25m and 0.40m thick; overlying a lower ploughsoil, mid brown soft friable clay-silt which, where present, was between 0.06m and 0.30m thick; patchy subsoil, mid orange-brown soft silt-clay between 0.03m and 0.18m thick; and the natural yellow-brown soft silt-clay with occasional frequent shillet and sub-angular stone. The lower ploughsoil and subsoil layers were deeper to the south, following expected colluvial hillwash models of deposition.</p> <p>The evaluation trenching broadly confirmed the results of the geophysical survey: the east by west aligned strong sinuous linear feature being present (ditches [203] and [304]) in trenches 02 and 03. Ditches [203] and [304] measured between 0.75m and 1.25m wide x 0.10m and 0.30m deep with shallow to moderate sloping sides and slightly concave base. They contained a main fill, grey-brown soft friable clay-silt, with basal silting deposits of orange-brown friable clay-silts present as the depth of the ditch petered out in relation to the overlying ploughsoil.</p> <p>The more tentative features suggested by the geophysical survey did not survive below the depth of the lower ploughsoil or were identified as tree throws or animal disturbance. Two additional linear features on a north by south alignment were identified as ephemeral smears up to 0.30m wide and 0.02m deep and are likely to be the result of modern rutting or plough scoring.</p> <p>Findings: A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the site including: 1 sherd (3g) of post-medieval blue transfer print from ploughsoil (400); 1 sherd (3g) of medieval gravel tempered pottery from ploughsoil (500); 1 sherd (2g) of post-medieval white refined earthenware and 1 sherd (21g) of 19th century yellow slip redware from ploughsoil (600); and 2 sherds (6g) of medieval gravel tempered pottery from lower ploughsoil (501).</p> <p>Conclusion: All of the features remain undated, though the approximate corresponding alignment of ditch [203]/[304] with historic field boundaries suggests that it may form part of the same field system; whilst the finds suggest continued medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity on the site.</p> <p>Bibliography: Bampton, J. 2015: <i>Land off Eglos Road, St Erme, Cornwall: Results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Walkover Survey & Archaeological Gradiometer Survey</i>. SWARCH Report No. 151127. Balmond, F. 2017: <i>Land off Trispen Hill, St. Erme, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH Report No. ETH17WSiv1. British Geological Survey 2016: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 12.07.2017]. Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>	
Land Use (Area): Settlement	Land Use (Site): Agricultural to become Domestic Property
Date of Site Visit: 10-11/07/17	
Recorder's name, address and phone number: P. Webb, South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH	

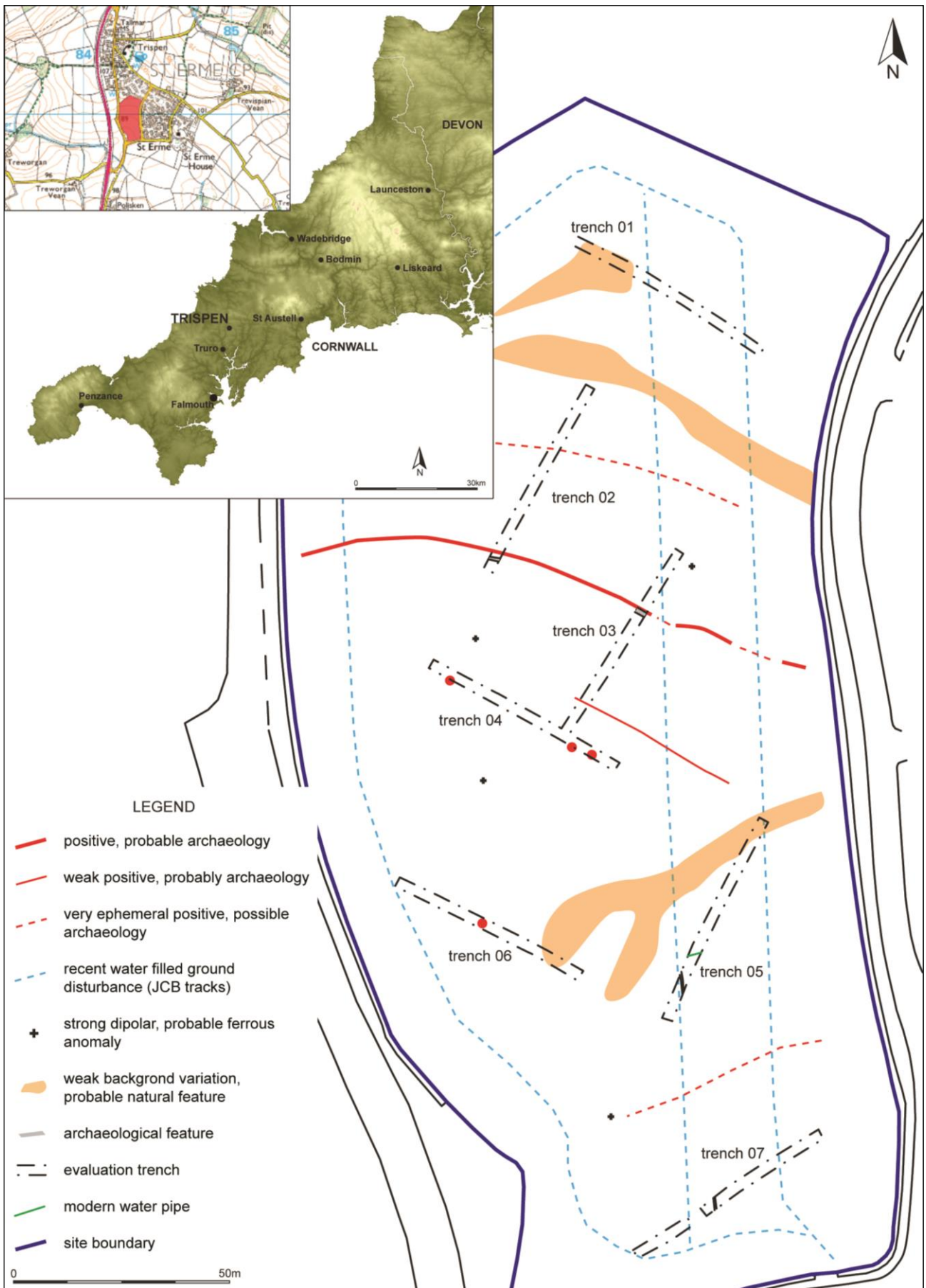


Figure 1: Site location, and site plan showing results of evaluation trenching overlaid on geophysical survey interpretation.

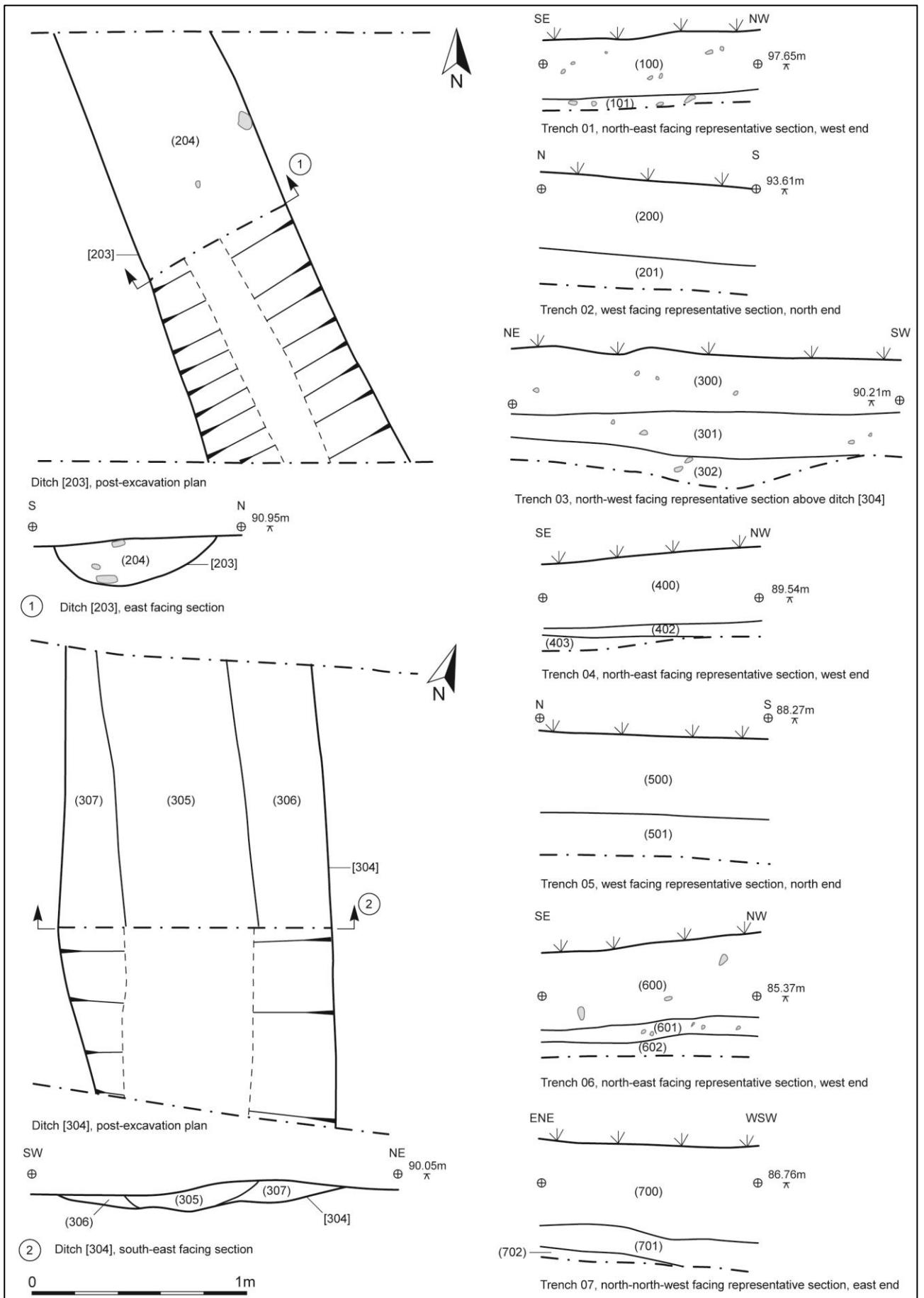


Figure 2: Site plans and sections (all heights AOD).



Figure 3: Ditch [203], post-excitation; viewed from the west (1m scale).



Figure 4: Ditch [304], south-east facing section; viewed from the south-east (1m scale).